

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A line driver couplable to a transmission path having line characteristics associated therewith, comprising:

a driver stage configured to send a signal along said transmission path; and

a switching network, coupled to said driver stage, configured to adaptively select a voltage level to apply across said driver stage to provide a power level to send said signal as a function of said line characteristics of said transmission path.

2. (currently amended) The line driver as recited in Claim 1 wherein said driver stage comprises a plurality of amplifiers configured to amplify said signal and said voltage level is applied across each of said plurality of amplifiers.

3. (original) The line driver as recited in Claim 2 wherein said driver stage comprises a reference circuit configured to provide a reference level associated with said plurality of amplifiers.

4. (currently amended) The line driver as recited in Claim 1 wherein said switching network comprises a plurality of switches configured to adaptively select said voltage power level.

5. (original) The line driver as recited in Claim 1 wherein said switching network comprises a plurality of switches configured to couple an output of said line driver to ground.

6. (currently amended) The line driver as recited in Claim 1 wherein said voltage power level includes a level up to about 21 volts.

7. (original) The line driver as recited in Claim 1 wherein said line driver forms a portion of a front end of a transceiver.

8. (currently amended) A method of operating a line driver coupled to a transmission path having line characteristics associated therewith, comprising:

sending a signal along said transmission path; and
adaptively selecting a voltage level to apply across a driver stage of said line driver to provide
a power level for sending ~~to send~~ said signal as a function of said line characteristics of said
transmission path.

9. (currently amended) The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said ~~sending is~~
~~performed by a driver stage~~ comprises ~~comprising~~ a plurality of amplifiers that amplify said signal.

10. (original) The method as recited in Claim 9 wherein said sending further comprises
providing a reference level associated with said plurality of amplifiers.

11. (original) The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said adaptively selecting is
performed by a switching network comprising a plurality of switches.

12. (original) The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said adaptively selecting further
comprises coupling an output of said line driver to ground.

13. (currently amended) The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said voltage power
level includes a level up to about 21 volts.

14. (original) The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said line driver forms a portion of
a front end of a transceiver.

15. (currently amended) A transceiver coupled to a transmission path having line
characteristics associated therewith, comprising:

a conversion stage that converts signals between an analog and digital domain;

a filter stage, coupled to said conversion stage, that filters said signals; and

a line driver, including:

a driver stage configured to send a signal along said transmission path; and

a switching network, coupled to said driver stage, configured to adaptively select a voltage level to apply across said driver stage to provide a power level to send said signal as a function of said line characteristics of said transmission path.

16. (currently amended) The transceiver as recited in Claim 15 wherein said driver stage comprises a plurality of amplifiers configured to amplify said signal and said voltage level is applied across each of said plurality of amplifiers.

17. (original) The transceiver as recited in Claim 16 wherein said driver stage comprises a reference circuit configured to provide a reference level associated with said plurality of amplifiers.

18. (currently amended) The transceiver as recited in Claim 15 wherein said switching network comprises a plurality of switches configured to adaptively select said voltage ~~power~~ level.

19. (original) The transceiver as recited in Claim 15 wherein said switching network comprises a plurality of switches configured to couple an output of said line driver to ground.

20. (currently amended) The transceiver as recited in Claim 15 wherein said voltage ~~power~~ level includes a level up to about 21 volts.